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MACNOW: LOOK PAST EAGLES DRAMA

Fletcher Cox is an emerging superstar on the defensive side. 22

Alicia Vikander is about to hit the big time. 16

All you need to know for the 'Voice' finale. 15

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NEW FACES

The historic Mummers Parade continues to grow with new, diverse groups joining this year's festivities. 6

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SPORTSPERSON OF YEAR

1 Serena Williams, who held all four of tennis's grand slam titles for the second time in her career and won 53 of 56 matches in 2015, was named Sportsperson of the Year by Sports Illustrated magazine on Monday. The 34-year-old accomplished her second "Serena Slam" while battling a string of injuries. REUTERS

PENTAGON EYES $12-15B

2 The Pentagon's fiscal 2017 budget request will include $12 billion to $15 billion to fund war gaming, experimentation and the demonstration of new technologies aimed at ensuring a continued military edge over China and Russia, Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work said on Monday. The U.S. military plans to invest in autonomous weapons and deep-learning machines that draw on advances in artificial intelligence, with a heavy focus on human-machine collaboration and teaming in combat, Work said. REUTERS

ELEVATOR ROBBERY VIDEO

3 A suspect, still at large, blocked an elevator exit in order to stage a robbery in a West Powelton residential building. Philadelphia police are searching for a man who robbed a passenger of more than $800, ABC reported, adding that the robbery happened on Nov. 20. METRO

BALMY BASKETBALL

7 Passyunk Square area teens play basketball at Capitolo playground in South Philadelphia on a warm Monday.

MAIN PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

SUSPECT CHARGED

4 Philadelphia police have charged a man with the fatal stabbing at a SEPTA bus stop just a block away from the Convention Center where international pilgrims had flocked for the World Meeting of Families. Reginald Bell, 52, of the 300 block of South Broad Street, is charged with murder for the Sept. 24 stabbing of 47-year-old William Vaughn, police said Monday. SAM NEWHOUSE

PLAYGROUND DRUG DEAL

5 A large-scale heroin and painkiller ring that operated at a playground has led to a guilty plea for one Philadelphia man. Raheem Cuffee pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to selling heroin near the Wiles Hill Playground in Morgantown, West Virginia, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported, adding that heroin dealers from major cities, including Philadelphia, are actively delivering drugs to small towns in West Virginia, where the addiction rate is high. JASON NUCKOLLS

COSBY DEGREE REVOKED

6 Boston University has decided to renounce the honorary degree it conferred upon Bill Cosby in 2014 after more than 50 women accused the comedian of sexual assault. The university's board of trustees made the decision "based on a determination, supported by Mr. Cosby's sworn deposition testimony. MATT LEE

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Please donate to the Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive during the 2015 holiday season.
In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Tony's Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor-in-chief. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive. We are now asking readers to contribute what they can to Tony's Metro Magic.

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to www.metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic logo.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system. Your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

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El Nino or climate change?

A pedestrian walks past Christmas decorations in South Philly as temps hit 65 Monday. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Opinions vary about whether the warm weather patterns on the east coast may or may not be related to climate change.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Warm weather across the east coast have many speculating if the doomsday scenario promised by global warming activists is coming true.

While the warm Pacific weather pattern known as El Nino is currently active, which could be causing the unusual temperatures, meteorologists and scientists are not entirely sure if El Nino is the only factor — or if climate change has made El Nino a stronger force than ever this year.

"There is some emerging evidence now that climate change is leading to stronger El Ninos, so the fact that we are witnessing not just an El Nino event but an El Nino event of record strength could indeed be a consequence of human-caused climate change," said Penn State professor Michael Mann, director of the Earth System Science Center.

"The heat records we are seeing across the northern half of the country are likely favored in part to the unusual jet stream pattern associated with El Nino, and in part to the overall warmer warming baseline of winter temperatures due to global warming," Mann said.

But not everyone agrees.

John Bolaris, a meteorologist based in the Philadelphia area, said climate change isn't responsible for the current warm phase.

"It doesn't have anything to do with climate change because it just doesn't happen that way. You don't have winter last year with near record lows, and then the next year have near-record warms and say it's climate change," Bolaris said. "The warm day over the weekend doesn't mean there was climate change — it means we have had a big, strong effect from El Nino."

Benjamin Horton, a professor at Rutgers University, said El Nino might not be the cause, but that "waviness" in the jet stream could be responsible for climate shifts like from a cold snowy winter in 2014 to a warm one in 2015.

"It's been the case for the past few years that the jet stream has a very wavy pattern. It's normally very straight," Horton said.

These jet stream changes pushed colder air south in 2014, and in 2015 they seem to be forcing warm air up the east coast, Horton said.

"What the driver is for the wavy nature of the jetstream is unknown and debatable. Some people would say its a normal variability; other people would say that it's related to changes in Arctic sea ice," Horton said. "The answer is unknown."

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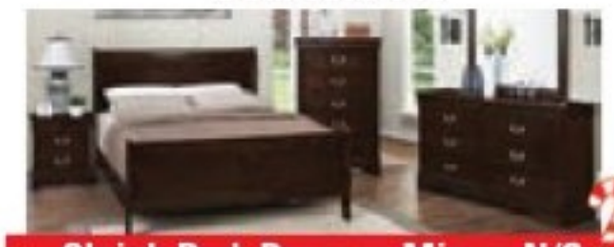

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The Mummers tradition is gearing up to embrace more diverse performers. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

New, diverse Mummers excited to join tradition

The Mummers Parade, long targeted for criticism because most dancers are white, will look a bit different this year.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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With New Year's Day around the corner, in Philly that also means the Mummers Parade — the crazily colorful parade of costumed dancers that has long been part of Philly's heritage.

This year, to address rising gripes that the Mummers who performed in the parade were almost all white, the Mummers organization has invited a more diverse variety of dancers and performers to participate in the Mummers' new "Philadelphia Division." Members of the new groups say they are just pleased to have a chance to participate in the city tradition.

"We are part of Philadelphia, we are part of the community, we want to participate and show what we are all about and what we have culturally to offer," said Monica Orozco, 35, a member of the South Philly-based San Mateo Carnavaleros dance troupe. "It's also a way to show that the Mexican community is here and we would like to participate — not only in the Mummers, but in any other activities in the city of Philadelphia."

The Carnavaleros may be best known for their annual Carnaval de Puebla, which they hold every April in South Philly with all members of the Mexican community invited.

"It's really a mix of tradition, culture and history," Orozco said of the Carnavaleros' performances. "For us to be able to show that at the Mummers, we are very proud and very excited."

> *"Whether you're old school or new school, we're all doing this to show our Mummers pride."*
> Morrison

Also in the new Philly division will be Second 2 None, a dance group from West Philly, and the LGBT/drag-themed Miss Fancy Brigade, which has participated in the Mummers parade since 2012.

Member Ian Morrison, 41, said the Mummers' move toward inclusion are strengthening the tradition for the future.

"There's always gonna be changes in a society where forward thinking is the most accepted," he said. "At the end of the day you need to do what you need to do to keep the tradition alive."

Moves by the Mummers organization have come slow, Morrison said, because it is so steeped in history. Women weren't allowed to perform in the parade until the 1980s due to the parade's charter, which was only modified after all the original signers had died.

The decision to include LGBT dancers and drag queens upset some traditionalists at first, he said, but since his group was allowed to join the parade in 2012, it's become an accepted part of the parade.

"I feel like our group, the LGBT group, broke down the door for all the other minorities," Morrison said. "I think it's a little scary at first, because people don't like change. ... [But] the more groups that are included, the bigger the experience gets for everyone."

"Once you start the march, we're all a big family."

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BRIEF

Pa. severed head may be tied to body parts market

Investigators said on Monday that red balls had been placed in the eye sockets of a woman's embalmed head found a year ago in a case that may be linked to a growing black market for body parts.

Economy Borough Police Chief Michael O'Brien at a news conference appealed to the public for help identifying the woman, whose head was discovered in the woods by a child walking home in the rural town about 22 miles northwest of Pittsburgh on Dec. 12, 2014.

Despite nearly 30 leads from the public following publication of artist renderings and a bust of the woman's head, she remains unidentified, police said. She was described as Caucasian and about age 50.

Beaver County District Attorney Anthony Berosh said an investigation is under way and it encompasses a range of possibilities.

"There's a black market on body parts and that market is pretty extensive," Berosh said.

O'Brien said the head was found too far off rural Mason Road to have ended up there accidentally and animals moving the head had been ruled out because the embalming fluid would have made it unappealing.

An artist's rendering of Jane Doe, whose decapitated head was found on December 12, 2014 in Western Pennsylvania. PROVIDED

"It didn't roll off a truck. It just didn't happen that way," Berosh said.

Holding up a toy red rubber ball that was similar to those discovered in the woman's eye sockets, O'Brien said funeral home directors and medical examiners all told police that they "have never even heard of this type of use to replace eyes that have been enucleated from the body."

Beaver County Coroner Teri Tatalovich-Rossi said the head was severed with jagged cuts on the exterior, and more precise cuts on the interior. The time of death could not be determined due to the embalming fluid.

Toxicology reports indicate the woman had trace amounts of drugs used to treat cardiac distress in her system, suggesting she may have died from heart failure, O'Brien said.

New information from hair and tooth enamel indicates that in the seven months leading up to her death, she moved up to four times and possibly lived in southwestern Pennsylvania, central Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, northern Maryland or eastern New York, O'Brien said. Her last dental work was likely performed in the 1990s.

O'Brien said the head was buried on Saturday after investigators had obtained all possible forensic evidence. REUTERS

Gay-bash trial: Did woman throw punch?

Defense testimony contradicted reports that the female defendant participated in a gay bashing last year.

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The trial for a Bucks County woman charged with aggravated assault for the beating of a gay couple drew closer toward an end Monday as the defense began presenting its case.

Four witnesses testifying for the defense Monday denied that Kathryn Knott, 25, who is charged with aggravated assault in threw a punch during the melee, the Philadelphia Gay News reported.

She was one among a group of more than 12 who allegedly participated in a group attack on two gay men in Center City on Sept. 11, 2014, around 10:45 p.m. The attack left one victim with severe facial injuries that required him to have his jaw wired shut for months.

Victims Zachary Hesse and Andrew Haught, a gay couple, previously testified for the prosecution that Knott punched both of them after she and several friends shouted homophobic slurs at them.

But two witnesses for the defense, friends of Knott's, testified that she was not using offensive language or hitting anyone, the Gay News said.

The prosecution concluded their case Monday morning with the introduction into evidence of tweets by Knott. They include the messages "the ppl we were just dancing with just turned and mafe out with eatch other #gay #ew" and "Jazz flute is for little fairy boys."

Kathryn Knott leaves court. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Two other suspects, Kevin Harrigan and Philip Williams, previously pleaded guilty to assault charges and were sentenced to probation, community service and were banned from Center City, Philadelphia.

Testimony is expected to continue on Tuesday.

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Jury starts deliberations over Baltimore officer charged in Gray death

The seven-woman, five-man jury started deliberations in the case of Officer William Porter, 26, after almost two weeks of testimony in Baltimore City Circuit Court.

A Baltimore jury began weighing the fate of a police officer charged in the death of a black detainee that triggered rioting and intensified a debate on police tactics.

Officer William Porter faces involuntary manslaughter and other charges in Freddie Gray's death from a broken neck suffered in the back of a police van.

In closing arguments, prosecutor Janice Bledsoe said Porter could have prevented Gray's death by buckling his seat belt and getting medical aid when Gray asked for it. Porter is the first of six officers, three of them black, to face trial.

"Click — how long does it take to click a seatbelt and click a radio and ask for a medic? Two seconds? Three seconds? Maybe four?" Bledsoe asked jurors, holding a seatbelt in her hands.

"Is two, three or maybe four seconds worth a life?"

But defense lawyer Joseph Murtha said in his closing statement that Porter had acted as any reasonable police officer would have and prosecutors had played on city residents' fears in bringing the charges.

A demonstrator stands outside the Baltimore City Circuit Courthouse. GETTY IMAGES

Murtha said that medical experts for both sides had disputed at what point Gray suffered his injury. Officers could not be expected to call for medical assistance every time a detainee wanted help, he said.

"You are judging Officer Porter from a reasonable officer standard," he said.

Porter, who is black, also faces charges of second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and misconduct in office. The charges against the other officers range from second-degree murder to misconduct in office. REUTERS

Argentina bus crash leaves 43 border patrol officers dead

A bus carrying Argentine border patrol officers blew a tire and tumbled from a bridge into a dry river bed in the northern province of Salta on Monday, killing 43 and injuring eight.

The vehicle was part of a three-bus convoy carrying officers of Argentina's gendarmerie, which patrols the country's borders. Salta borders Bolivia, Chile and Paraguay.

Border security has become a hot issue in Argentina as the country has emerged as part of a route used for smuggling Andean cocaine to Europe and for human traffickers sending Syrian refugees through the Western Hemisphere.

"Forty-three gendarmes lost their lives here today. Eight more were injured, one critically," Salta Governor Juan Manuel Urtubey told reporters at the scene.

Passengers on the other two buses in the convoy were the first to venture into the ravine to try to save those trapped in the wreckage. TV images showed the bus completely upside down at the bottom of a steep slope covered in lush green vegetation.

"It appears that one of the tires of the bus blew out, unfortunately just a few meters ahead of the bridge. It went over the guardrail," Argentine security chief Patricia Bullrich told reporters.

President Mauricio Macri, elected last month on a platform that included improving Argentina's rural roads, sent his condolences to families of the victims of the crash and declared a national day of mourning. REUTERS

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On Sandy Hook anniversary, US activists call for gun restrictions

On Dec. 14, 2012, Adam Lanza shot and killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

U.S. gun control activists called for expanded background checks for firearms purchasers and for a ban on sales to people on federal watch lists Monday, in a protest marking the third anniversary of the massacre at a Connecticut elementary school.

Speakers including U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, a Virginia Democrat, and survivors of recent U.S. mass shootings made their call outside the Fairfax, Virginia, headquarters of the National Rifle Association. About 100 people attended the protest in the Washington suburb.

"It was a scene that has been repeated too often in the United States, and just as often, the response to these senseless killings has been inaction on the issue of gun control," said Connolly.

The congressman added that he wanted Congress to overturn a longstanding ban on providing federal funding for research on gun violence.

The Constitution's Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms. Gun-rights groups, including the NRA, argue that restrictions on gun purchases would not improve public safety, reasoning that criminals do not obey laws.

Connolly was joined by the parents of Alison Parker, one of two Roanoke, Virginia, television journalists shot dead by a former station employee during a live broadcast in August, and two survivors of a 2011 shooting in Tucson, Arizona, that badly wounded then-U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and killed six others.

A woman holds her child as they signal cars passing by during a protest on the third anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting, in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia., on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy last week said his state planned to ban sales of firearms to people designated on U.S. lists as having suspected ties to terrorism or who are banned from flying on commercial aircraft. That move came days after President Barack Obama called on Congress to impose a similar prohibition nationwide following the fatal shooting of 14 people in California by a married couple inspired by Islamic State militants. REUTERS

"It was a scene that has been repeated too often in the United States, and just as often, the response to these senseless killings has been inaction on the issue of gun control."
Connolly

BRIEF

National Guard member pleads guilty in plot to attack Illinois base

An Illinois National Guard member pleaded guilty Monday to plotting with his cousin to attack a military installation as part of a conspiracy to support the Islamic State, a spokesman for federal prosecutors said.

Army National Guard Specialist Hasan Edmonds was charged along with his cousin, Jonas Edmonds, with planning to carry out an armed attack on the military facility where Hasan Edmonds had been training in Joliet, 34 miles southwest of downtown Chicago.

Hasan Edmonds, 23, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and attempting to provide support — namely personnel — to the organization, said the spokesman.

Jonas Edmonds, 30, pleaded guilty last week to the conspiracy charge and a charge of lying to law enforcement on an offense related to terrorism.

Hasan Edmonds faces up to 30 years in prison when he is sentenced March 18. Jonas Edmonds faces up to 23 years at his Jan. 27 sentencing. REUTERS

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Charges against Bergdahl to go to general court-martial

Bergdahl, 29, was charged earlier this year with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy. He faces up to life in prison if convicted of the more serious offense of misbehavior.

In this undated image provided by the U.S. Army, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl poses in front of an American flag. U.S. ARMY HANDOUT/GETTY IMAGES

The military charges against U.S. Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, a former prisoner of the Taliban in Afghanistan charged with desertion, were referred on Monday for trial by general court-martial, the U.S. Army Forces Command said.

The date of the arraignment hearing at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will be announced at a later date, the U.S. Army Forces Command said in a statement on Monday.

U.S. military prosecutors said in September at a preliminary hearing to establish probable cause that Bergdahl, held for five years before being swapped in 2014 for five Taliban leaders, deliberately left his post.

The prosecutors said at the preliminary hearing, held at the military post in San Antonio where Bergdahl has been stationed since his return, that he launched a plan weeks in the making. They said there was sufficient evidence to hold him for trial on charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy.

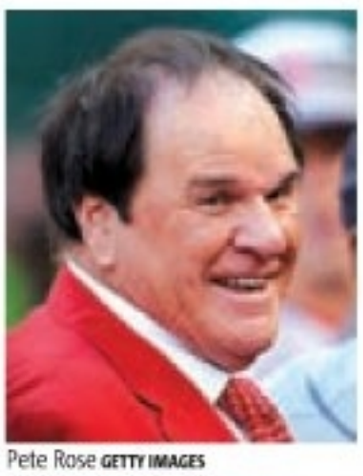
Major General Kenneth Dahl, who led the military's investigation of Bergdahl's disappearance and capture, testified at the hearing in September that Bergdahl was not a Taliban sympathizer and recommended that he serve no prison time. Dahl characterized Bergdahl as an unrealistically idealistic soldier who left his post to report concerns about his unit's leadership to a general at another base.

"I do not believe that there is a jail sentence at the end of this process," said Dahl, who led 22 people in the two-month investigation and interviewed Bergdahl for a day and a half. REUTERS

Rose's bid for reinstatement denied by MLB

All-time hits leader Pete Rose's application to have his lifetime ban overturned was denied by Major League Baseball on Monday.

Rose, who was banned from baseball in 1989 for allegedly gambling on games while playing for and managing the Cincinnati Reds, met with MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred in September to make a case for reinstatement.


Pete Rose GETTY IMAGES

However, the 74-year-old Rose, who has been ineligible for the Baseball Hall of Fame as a result of the ban, provided "little confidence" that he understood his wrongful conduct, accepted full responsibility for it or understood the damage he had caused, the commissioner said.

"Mr. Rose has not presented credible evidence of a reconfigured life either by an honest acceptance by him of his wrongdoing ... or by a rigorous, self-aware and sustained program of avoidance by him of all the circumstances that led to his permanent ineligibility in 1989," Manfred wrote in his decision. REUTERS

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This latest Bieber dating rumor is a real doozy

This is one I certainly did not see coming. In what could possibly just be a case of some tabloid editor playing around with the celebrity gossip Magnetic Poetry set, Justin Bieber is now rumored to be making kissy-kissy with … Kourtney Kardashian? I think I read that right. The 21-year-old Canadian serial apologist and the 36-year-old recently single reality TV star were spotted hitting up a club in L.A. together and departing in the same SUV. And according to CNN, a source says that they were "making out," so there you go. Bieber, however, has also been spotted squiring a mystery blonde around town — and on a yachting excursion — but the gossip is that he and the Kardashian who isn't Kim or Khloe are "casually" seeing each other. So there's that.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

the word

NED EHRBAR
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Tim Gunn does not think the Kardashians make it work

Speaking of the Kardashians, Tim Gunn is taking aim once again at Kim Kardashian and her family, and he's even dragging Kanye West into it this time. "I'm always saying to young people and actually even to adults, I don't care what you wear as long as you don't dress like a Kardashian. It's vulgar, period," Gunn tells Confidential. "But that's what they are. I believe that their place in history will be because of this phenomenon that really is about nothing. And aren't people getting bored of it?" It's a fair question, honestly.

As for West, Gunn is less than impressed with his foray into life as a fashion designer. "I'm on record having said [his fashions] are basic, what a dear friend of mine, [former Vogue editor] Grace Mirabella, calls dumb clothes. It's not fashion," Gunn says. "They're dumb clothes and they're expensive, dumb clothes. I've always said the only thing dumber than his clothes is the people who buy them."

DAILY VIDEO

YOUTUBE

John Oliver talks regifting

John Oliver's "Last Week Tonight" is taking a frustratingly long winter break — no new episodes until February — but he's getting in the Christmas spirit by giving us this web exclusive about proper regifting etiquette. As Oliver explains, "At some point this month you will unwrap a present that will induce the kind of jaw-dropping disappointment that one usually associates with the term 'lettuce wrap.'" Hey man, I actually make a pretty mean lettuce wrap, I'll have you know. But anyway, he lays out some simple rules, like not regifting to someone who actually knows the original gifter or making sure to gussy it up a bit with a note or new wrapping.

Mariah Carey loses her Christmas crown

In news that will make you feel old, Mariah Carey's holiday hit "All I Want For Christmas Is You" just turned 20. And since its release, it has been played practically on loop every holiday season. But now it has been topped as the most played holiday song, and you might be surprised who dethroned the Christmas queen. According to PlayNetwork, which generates playlists for hundreds of stores across the country, The Shins' cover of Paul McCartney's "Wonderful Christmastime" is now the most played holiday song, bumping Carey down to No. 2. Christina Aguilera's "Christmas Time" rounds out the top three. While it's hard to believe anyone could take Mariah Carey down, 20 years is a pretty epic run. EMILY LAURENCE

Adele is coming to MSG

If you've been clutching your copy of "25" and rocking back and forth, hoping Adele would play six nights at Madison Square Garden, we have good news: Adele is playing six night at Madison Square Garden, according to tour dates the Grammy award-winning singer announced yesterday. But you're going to have to be patient, because it's going to be almost a year before she's here. You can catch Adele next year in NYC on Sept. 19, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 26, as well as in Boston (Sept. 14 and 15) and Philadelphia (Sept. 9 and 10). Tickets go on sale Thursday at 11 a.m., Adele-heads. MATTHEW LEE

@mindykaling
Joel Edgerton is a triple threat and he also looks better in eye liner than me. I can't with this guy

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@Real_Liam_Payne
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@justinbieber
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@JeremyMJordan
Damnit #Homeland, why u gotta tease me like that?!?! Ughhhhhh... So good tho.

@Sethrogen
@Drake is the best thing that ever happened to Can Con laws. (this is a very Canadian tweet)

'The Voice' finale cheat sheet

Here's how to sound like you know what you're talking about during tonight's finale.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

These are your judges. Or coaches. Or something. And the chairs spin. TYLER GOLDEN/NBC

Suppose you're going to a "Voice" finale viewing party tonight but you don't really watch the show. You don't want to sound like an idiot. Don't worry, we're here to help.

The stages of voicing

If you're trying to sound knowledgeable, each segment of the show's run has a helpful name, so write some of these down. First, there were the Blind Auditions, which is really the gimmick that sets the show apart. Then the coaches assemble their teams and head into the Battles, where team members go up against each other to whittle down the roster to 24. Then they head into Knockouts, which is pretty much the same as Battles except with more faux drama.

Finally, it's time for the Live Shows, when the home audience gets to vote. Contestants start dropping like flies until the Semifinals, after which we end up with four singers vying for the title of the one with the most voice. Or something.

The final four voicers

If anybody asks, here's what you can say about the quartet battling for $100k and a record deal.

Jordan Smith: "His 'Somebody to Love' legit slayed me. He should always have a choir with him."

Barrett Baber: "He's good and all, but I'm just not feeling the dad vibe. But did you know he survived a plane crash?"

Emily Ann Roberts: "Doing a Dolly Parton number the week Dolly Parton was a guest? Bold choice."

Jeffery Austin: "I'd be more comfortable rooting for him if his hair wasn't as tall."

Judges of voicing

The four famous faces in the big red spinning chairs each repping a different corner of the pop landscape.

Adam Levine: The de facto rocker, with one team member, Jordan Smith, a favorite to win.

Blake Shelton: Has two contestants in the finale.

Gwen Stefani: Almost didn't have anyone in the finale until Jeremy Austin got an Instant Save.

Pharrell Williams: Who doesn't love Pharrell? America, apparently.

Barrett Baber, Jeremy Austin, Emily Ann Roberts and Jordan Smith. TYLER GOLDEN/NBC

Predictions

Check out **Metro.us** for a more informed prediction about who will win by our resident "Voice" expert.

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Actress Alicia Vikander is on fire

The Golden Globe nominee talks about her star-making role in "The Danish Girl."

MATT PRIGGE
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matt.prigge@metro.us

In "The Danish Girl," Eddie Redmayne plays Lili Elbe, one of the first people to undergo gender reassignment surgery, which means parting ways with her former wife, Gerda (Alicia Vikander). FOCUS FEATURES

GETTY IMAGES

Before she read the script, Alicia Vikander says she wasn't aware "The Danish Girl" had a strong second female role. The film tells the tale of Lili Elbe (played by Eddie Redmayne), one of the first people, in the 1920s, to transition from male to female. The life change also meant Lili parted ways with wife Gerda, played by Vikander. The 27-year-old Swedish actress (of "Ex Machina") says the film explores both the life of a transgender pioneer and what her transition did to their relationship.

You do a lot of period films, from "A Royal Affair" to "Anna Karenina" to "Testament of Youth." Do you sometimes feel lost going from one era to another?

I get stuck in them. Sometimes I don't know what century I'm in. But it's a great skill to have as an actor, to have sets and costumes already there. It does a lot for you to be able to throw yourself into a new story.

"The Danish Girl" does bring you back to Scandinavian culture.

It's part of my history and my life growing up. During "A Royal Affair," I loved being back in the 18th century. I was able to find personal connections to Caroline Mathilde [her character], and it gave me a lot to being someone's voice from such a long time ago. With "Testament of Youth," I was able to find people who knew Vera Brittain. With "The Danish Girl," we tried to find historical inspirations, but it was also about meeting people who had such generosity in the transgender community — especially people like my character who had been friends or loved ones of people transitioning.

What kinds of things did you learn from people who had been close to people transitioning?

Every single story ends up being extremely different. Sometimes they said it was tough to give them that time. They said they were also transitioning. Like any couple going through a huge change, they both needed to find their feet on the ground in a new location. That's something I could relate to with whatever you're going through as everything's changing around.

I'd argue this is also a great breakup film, and one that isn't about a couple who split bitterly. It's about their struggles to maintain a connection despite parting ways romantically.

Love includes being able to let that person go, the person you love the most. You still have affection for someone, even when things get bad. It was a unique story, but I was amazed by the romantic aspect and the love between them. Of course they go off on different roads, but they go on the same journey. There are scenes where they both know that things are hard, but they don't know what the future's going to be. They know that, and they're still able to reach out and tell the other person they're connected somehow. That's something I felt from page one to the end, that they do have a connection. Even though their relationship changes, that's something they'll always have — it will always be there. That got to me. There are a lot of emotional scenes, but those are the ones, where they try to reach out and connect, when I started to cry reading it. And that very rarely happens.

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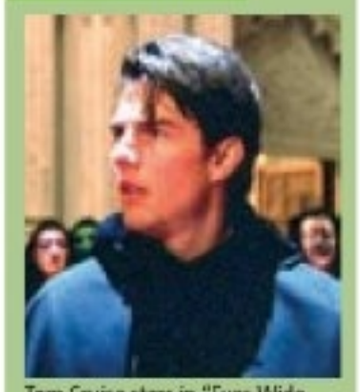
"A VERY MURRAY CHRISTMAS"

Paul Shaffer, George Clooney and Miley Cyrus are among those who join Bill Murray for "A Very Murray Christmas," directed by Sofia Coppola. NETFLIX

Bill Murray has nothing left to prove, except that he does. This October he did the unthinkable: He was actually actively annoying in a movie, namely the supremely misjudged "Rock the Kasbah." A semi-tongue-in-cheek Christmas special, with him warbling through Xmas songs with the likes of Miley Cyrus and George Clooney, doesn't sound much better. But that very dodginess is part of what makes "A Very Murray Christmas" oddly charming. As he plows through a diverse batch of numbers — from holiday standards to a Todd Rundgren sing-a-long — he's perched somewhere between sarcasm and sincerity. Oh, and it's directed by Sofia Coppola, who adds an extra layer of formal weirdness to what does and doesn't work as straight-up holiday cheer.

'EYES WIDE SHUT'



Tom Cruise stars in "Eyes Wide Shut." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Speaking of Christmas, as far as holiday movies that are decidedly un-holiday-like, Stanley Kubrick's hypnotic, brutally honest dissection of marriage and infidelity ranks up there with "Gremlins" and "Die Hard." So, has the tide finally turned in favor of the god-filmmaker's swan song? People snickered at it back in 1999, despite the director's passing only months prior. But Kubrick films are usually underappreciated before getting reclaimed as untouchable classics later. We hope that's the case here, especially given the excellence of not only Nicole Kidman but also a nervous Tom Cruise, who's arguably never more entertaining when his hyper-confidence is being deflated.

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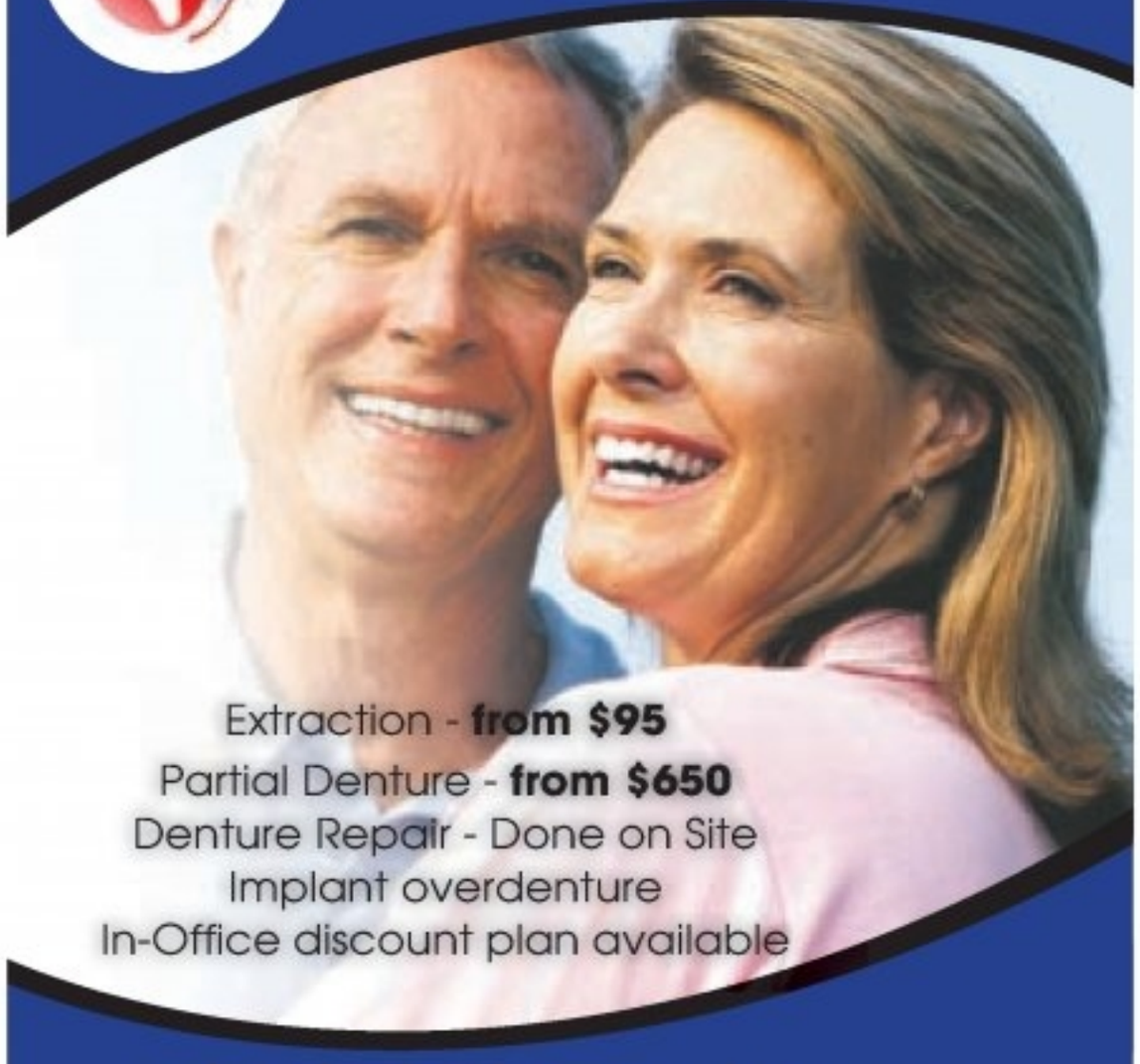

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A party that pops

Try a vintage Champagne with your turkey. ISTOCK, C. CAMARENA

Our expert guide to enhancing your holidays with Champagne.

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If you think of Champagne only on special occasions, then AJ Ojeda-Pons is celebrating most days of the year.

"For the longest time, I had a motto: Drink Champagne every day," says the sommelier, who mans the wine list at Geoffrey Zakarian's The Lambs Club. "Champagne is not just a celebratory item, it's really a very versatile wine."

How versatile? Ojeda-Pons sips a glass of bubbly to start many of his meals, whether that's a cheese plate with fruit, a burger or even a bowl of popcorn while watching TV. Though all Champagne is grown in one small region of France (anything else is sparkling wine), "there's so many houses, there's so many vintners, there's so many styles of it, from very, very dry to very, very rich," he explains. "There's always something that I can find to drink."

Besides bringing its own aroma and flavor, Ojeda-Pons describes Champagne's effect as adding "an extra layer" that changes the texture and character of food.

He shared with us some ideas on how to pair Champagne with every course of the holiday dinner.

Aperitif

To welcome guests, Ojeda-Pons suggests something on the lighter, crisper side such as a blanc de blanc made with 100 percent Chardonnay. It doesn't have to be in anticipation of a toast — just an easy, no-fuss way to welcome guests. "In lieu of a cocktail, which is more elaborate to make and you have so many people arriving, Champagne is always perfect."

One to try Billecart-Salmon Blanc de Blancs *"My No. 1. … It comes from the grand cru side, oh my God, it's so elegant and pristine and bright." ($83)*

Appetizer

Once you start serving food, ramp up the complexity of the Champagne, but stick with ones that don't blend their grape varieties. "For the starters, I would go for a blanc de noir," he says.

One to try Fleury Pere et Fils Blanc de Noirs Brut - *"A great one made with pinot meunier [grapes]." ($35)*

Main course

To stand up to strong, earthy flavors, he recommends "something really complex and intense, like a vintage Champagne, not too old." Something produced between 2007 and 2009 should do it. The vintage bubbly will complement the food while still standing on its own.

One to try Heidsieck & Co. Monopole Blue Top Brut *"a richer style of Champagne." ($33)*

Dessert

"Champagne used to be a sweeter beverage when it was first famous," but that style has fallen out of favor, he explains. "That's why, historically, you'd have Champagne with your wedding cake, but Champagnes are so dry now that if you put it with something sweet sometimes it can be a big contrast."

An extremely sweet dessert like pecan pie can leave a modern Champagne tasting metallic. He recommends going for a rose Champagne with dessert, in the demi sucre style which has more residual sugars.

One to try La Caravelle Champagne Cuvée Niña *"beautiful aromatically." ($36)*

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A105 - Richards, Robin • A161 - Fisher, Joseph
B026 - Lopez-Cedeno, Nelly • B054 - Ferranti, Alexis
D027 - Jones, Daineen • G018 - Quiles-Roman, Wessie

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A006 - Catlett, Shirley • B191 - Anderson, Hassan • B238 - Xu, Junkang
D394 - Randolph, Cynthia • D426 - Nelson, Matthew • D434 - Myerberg, Gillian
D460 - Carpenter, Christine • E499 - Cruz, Samuel • G606 - Sutton, James W

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Try sound healing at Learn Reiki, Learnreikiphiladelphia.com. ISTOCK

Right about now, you're probably starting to wonder whether the holiday season is really worth it — all the joy seems to come with just as much stress. And while this has been the year of meditation, sitting alone with your thoughts is not everyone's idea of a relaxing exercise. We've got some other ways to find your Zen and keep the season bright.

Floating

Imagine shutting out the world and letting the borders between you and reality dissolve — this is floating, where you immerse yourself in silence and salt water inside a soundproof, dark pod.

"I'm sort of addicted to distraction. I normally hate to be alone with my thoughts, but for whatever reason it's just fun to be in the tank," says David Leventhal of Lift/Next Level Floats in Brooklyn.

The chambers have about 10 inches of water that's heated to body temperature, where you're meant to float for an hour — or eight, as Leventhal recently did — without any physical sensations, allowing the mind to "expand in other directions," he says.

The high concentration of Epsom salt will naturally buoy you and keep your skin from getting pruney; you may even feel not just mentally but physically more relaxed as your body absorbs magnesium, which helps with circulation and lowering inflammation.

Sound healing

If you've ever felt pumped up by music, you already know it can affect your mood. But maybe you've also tried meditation to the sounds of a babbling brook and felt only an urge to go to the bathroom. Sound therapy uses instruments common in meditation practices — Tibetan singing bowls, tuning forks and bells — but played live, their vibrations are just as vital as the sound they make.

A new method, vibroacoustic therapy, adds a water-filled cushion that has various vibration settings that practitioners claim improve circulation while lowering blood pressure, and can be adjusted depending on patients' physical and mental needs.

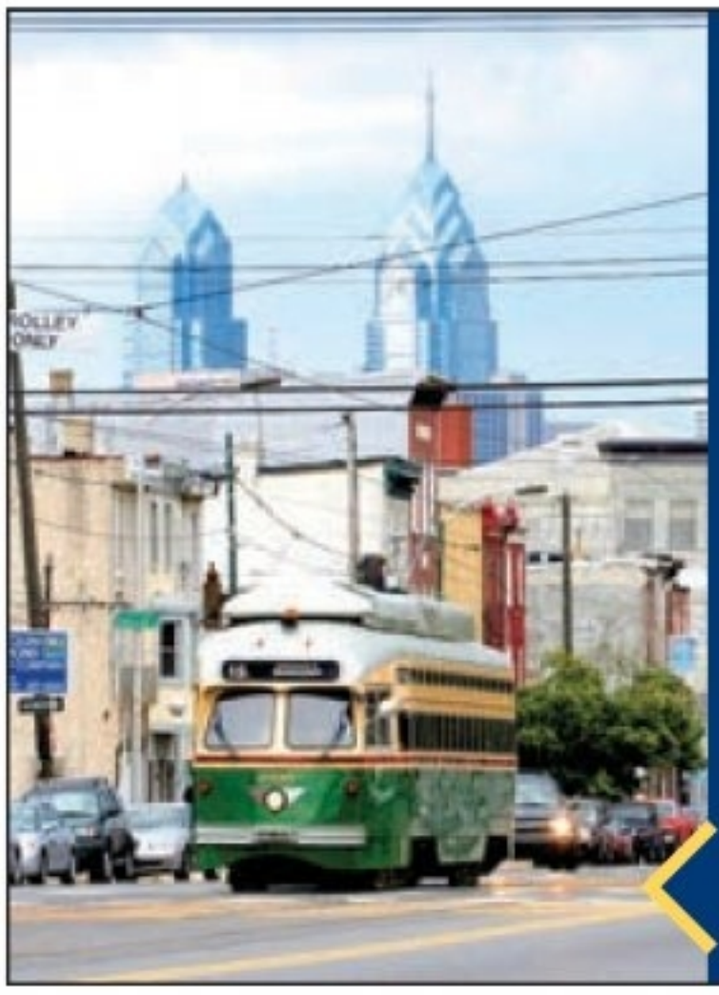
Try floating at Flotation Philly, Flotationphilly.com. PROVIDED

Coloring books

The last time you picked up a coloring book, your fine motor skills were probably being graded by a kindergarten teacher. A couple of decades later, this simple joy has been reimagined way beyond coloring by numbers into a new trend of adult coloring books with intricate patterns, from rainforests to mandalas, designed to help grown-ups de-stress.

The healing power of art — to express emotions and even relieve physical pain — has long been used to benefit everyone from those undergoing cancer treatment to the mentally ill. But anyone can benefit from the simple joy of creativity, honing their focus and the satisfaction of finishing a project.

It can also be a more structured creative outlet for people who may not feel like they have artistic talent, while allowing others to create their own designs.



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Have a healthy, jolly Christmas

Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver shares how to be joyful, and satisfied, during the holidays.

ELODIE NOËL
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Jamie Oliver doesn't want you to deprive yourself during the holiday season. GETTY IMAGES

As a professional chef, Jamie Oliver thinks about food all the time. But this year, he changed what goes on his own plate, and it's made a huge difference in his life — he's lost nearly 30 pounds.

"There isn't really one secret," he tells us. "Just cutting back on red meat and turning up the [vegetables] is hugely important."

His other "secret"? Getting enough sleep: "I've been saying this for months now — I used to get three or four hours' sleep a night, and that's not good. You need more. These days I'm getting around seven hours and I feel much more energized."

Oliver also never skips breakfast: "Make it a good one too, not sugary cereal!" Sugar has been a sticking point with him this year, and in June he became the first chef to add a surcharge of 10 pence (15 cents) to the price of sugary drinks at his restaurants.

Oliver, who also has a new cookbook for the holidays, "Everyday Super Food," talks to us about balancing good health with good cheer.

How are you celebrating Christmas this year?
It's pretty much the same every year, and I'm guessing it's very similar to a lot of people reading this — good food, some good telly, hopefully some good presents and happy kids because Santa has brought them what they asked for.

What are the foods that mean Christmas to you?
Roast turkey, roast goose — which I've been doing for a few years now just as a delicious extra meat — roast potatoes and loads of veggies. I tend to delegate different dishes to different people as it spreads the load a bit: My mum will bring her world-famous trifle, my sister will do a cauliflower cheese and someone else might be responsible for a cheese platter.

What are your favorite Christmas foods?
To be honest, I love the veggies, and I'm not saying that to sound healthy. I genuinely love cauliflower cheese, Brussels sprouts and red cabbage. I've got various ways of cooking them so they taste incredible — have a look on my website, where there's a whole section of easy, delicious Christmas recipes.

Do you watch yourself over the holiday season or is it all about indulging?
A couple of days of indulgence is fine — it is Christmas, after all — but after that I'll be back to normal. At the moment I'm pretty much eating "Everyday Super Food"-style during the week, and a bit of comfort food at weekends. I'm also having at least two or three vegetarian days a week, and I've really cut back on red meat.

Is it possible to eat relatively healthfully at Christmas?
Sure. Turkey is a pretty healthy meat, anyway, and you can always push the veggies and dial back on the roast potatoes and mince pies. But wherever you are in the world, I just hope you have a great day.

How easy is it to integrate superfoods into your holiday meals?
You can do simple things like replacing potatoes with sweet potatoes, which is going to make a world of difference.

What's your favorite Christmas cocktail?

One of the things I've tried for the last few years is a Quince Bellini, which feels quite Christmas-y and it's simple to do. All you need is [4 ounces] of poached quince plus [half a cup] of poaching liquid. Purée it up with an immersion blender, then divide between six glasses. Add a small amount of prosecco and give it a stir, then slowly top up with prosecco, while blending it together without losing too many bubbles.

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Kelly wants Bradford back

The Eagles' head coach had nothing but praise for the Eagles quarterback after Sunday's win.

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Many say Sam Bradford has grown into the leader the Eagles need. GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles paid a seemingly steep price for Sam Bradford this spring. Not only did they swap Nick Foles with the former Rookie of the Year, but they also sent the Rams a second-round pick.

The Birds acquired his $13 million salary, one that will expire and make him a free agent after the season ends. As of right now, there is no new contract in the works.

So, does that mean he is staying?

"We've always wanted Sam Bradford here [long term]," Kelly said in his weekly Monday press conference. "We wouldn't have traded for him if we only wanted him for one year."

The Eagles signal-caller has had a roller-coaster season, looking like a pro bowler in preseason only to fall to earth during the Eagles' first handful of games.

Though he shined bright against the Redskins (a Week 4 loss) and more or less played average football through the season's first half, many questioned Kelly's judgment in investing so much into the former No. 1 overall pick.

> *"I just see improvement from Sam on a weekly basis that gets you excited about him."*
> Chip Kelly

Kelly kept telling the media to wait and see. To just give Bradford time.

"We knew when we got Bradford that it would be a process," Kelly said, citing that every successful NFL quarterback has served for many years in the same system and on the same team. "I see him continuing to improve in all aspects of his game."

Bradford missed two starts against the Lions and Buccaneers, and the Eagles most certainly missed him, relenting 45 points and falling below .500 in the two embarrassing setbacks.

Since the midpoint in the season, Bradford is playing like a true franchise quarterback.

"I feel like over the past couple weeks or whatever it's been, I've gotten a lot more comfortable out there with what we're doing," Bradford said after Week 14's 23-20 win over the Buffalo Bills. "I think everyone else has too, it seems. It's still not perfect. There are some things that we need to correct but it seems to be going in the right direction right now."

Through the first eight games, Bradford completed 62.9 percent of his passes, had 10 touchdowns and 10 interceptions and a QB rating of 79.5.

Since then, he has four touchdowns to one lone interception (a fluke at that on a well-thrown ball to Zach Ertz against Buffalo), his completion percentage has gotten even better and he boasts a QB rating of 95.1, among the best in the league.

"His efforts have been understated," Ertz told the media Sunday. "The value of him to this team is second to none. When he's playing at a high level, I think everyone else on the offense is able to follow that, and I think he did that [Sunday]."

And perhaps more important than his improved play on the football field is his presence in the locker room. It sounds like everyone on Philly's roster is on board the Bradford train. And what more can you ask from your starting quarterback?

"I think he was getting there earlier in the year, and now he has kind of established himself as a leader," Ertz said. "I think everyone on the offense and on this team has enjoyed him doing that. We embrace him as the leader of this team."

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MACNOW: DON'T LET SOAP OPERA OVERSHADOW TRUE GREATNESS

With his first-quarter sack Sunday against Buffalo, Fletcher Cox has already set a career-high in sacks. GETTY IMAGES

We spent so much time last week obsessing on the eighth-grade drama — Did Shady really hang up on Chip? Did DeMarco go to the headmaster's office to complain? We may have missed the bigger story occurring in front of us.

And that story is this: As the Eagles yo-yoed around the standings this season, one player established himself among the NFL's top 10 talents. Defensive end Fletcher Cox, 25, has entered the pantheon of greatness where his name can be dropped into conversation with immortals.

"He's the best defensive player the Eagles have drafted since Brian Dawkins," my WIP pregame show partner Ike Reese declared Sunday. Dawkins was picked in 1996.

"I was laughing when I saw him being compared to Jerome Brown," Bills coach Rex Ryan said after Cox destroyed his offense Sunday afternoon. "I'm not laughing now."

On Sunday, Cox had a sack and seven tackles — including two for losses. He drew half of the eight penalties committed by the Bills offensive line. He undressed Buffalo guard Richie Incognito, who certainly left the stadium wishing he could live by the adjective that is his last name.

Mostly, Cox destroyed LeSean McCoy's homecoming. The prodigal Shady got off to a strong start, gaining 59 yards though the game's first 21 minutes. Then Cox took over. He blew up running lanes and redirected McCoy into dead-end alleys crammed with linebackers. Shady had just 15 yards in his last 11 carries, showing his frustration once by shoving Cox — who again gave no ground.

The highlight came in the fourth quarter. The Bills had come from 10 down and, with the score tied at 20-20, they began a drive hoping to take the lead. But on first down, Cox caught McCoy in the backfield. Shady being Shady, he spun, ceded ground and tried to turn a loss into a breakaway gain. Instead, Cox swatted him further back with a paw. McCoy slipped and Cox dived on top of him for a 10-yard loss.

> *"I think Fletch is a guy who helps out a whole lot. He's a brick wall on our side."*
> Eagles linebacker Brandon Graham

Three plays later, the Bills punted. And the Eagles began their game-winning drive.

Cox's greatness Sunday was no anomaly. He was a destroyer in the win over New England a week earlier. He has been so more often than not going back to last season — even though most experts think he'd be better suited as a 4-3 tackle than the 3-4 end he plays in Billy Davis' defense.

It's tough for a 3-4 DE to get credit, because he's most often creating tackles for his teammates. But Cox already has 6.5 sacks this season. Right now, he can fairly be called the NFL's best defensive lineman this side of J.J. Watt and Ndamukong Suh.

Suh, of course, earned a six-year, $114 free agent contract last off-season. Cox's current deal ends after 2016. The very first news we should hear from Chip Kelly this off-season — before he even hunts down that elusive franchise QB — is that Cox has been signed to a long-term extension.

GLEN MACNOW

OPINION

Glen Macnow has been an outspoken voice in Philly sports for nearly three decades.
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Wildcats' Arcidiacono has come a long way

Finally a senior, Ryan Arcidiacono is the leader the Wildcats need.

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Watching your children grow up is never easy.

You feel for them each time they stumble, trying to help them along so they can gain enough confidence to believe one day they can do things on their own without your help.

Even then, as proud as you are letting them spread their wings, it's difficult letting go.

But as Villanova's Jay Wright has watched guard Ryan Arcidiacono mature from a scared freshman with a sweet shooting stroke into a solid senior who will do whatever it takes to produce a victory, he can't help but be proud.

He knows the kid has come a long way.

"I think he's always just done what our team needs," said Wright, after Arcidiacono scored 14 points and handed out seven assists to help the 8-1 Wildcats whup neighborhood rival La Salle, 76-47, Sunday. "His freshman and sophomore years we needed him to score more than run the show.

"Last year we needed him to run the show more and he did it. This year it's actually nice because he's probably playing his most comfortable position. He's moving the ball as a lead guard, but we also play him off the ball where he can create a shot for himself and for others. He's very, very efficient."

46%

VILLANOVA MADE 13 OF 28 3-POINTERS IN THEIR BIG 5 WIN OVER LA SALLE. IN THEIR PREVIOUS GAME, A LOSS TO OKLAHOMA, THEY SHOT 4 FOR 32 FROM LONG RANGE.

The 6-foot-3 Arcidiacono, who's filled out from a scrawny kid to 195 pounds — which he credits to better nutrition — made all five of his shots from the field, as the Wildcats riddled LaSalle's defense by hitting 23 of their first 35 shots to bust this one open early.

"People can talk about what they want," said Arcidiacono, who's shooting at a 52 percent clip for the season, while averaging 12.3 points per game. "We know we're good shooters. We talked about that game on the way home and asked everyone what we could've done better. Then we just got back top practice and started focusing on the next game.

"We usually do a good job as a team responding. We took better shots tonight than we did against Oklahoma."

They also did more of the little things Wright said were missing against the Sooners, with Arcidiacono and junior Josh Hart (18 points) leading a parade of five players in double figures. For the kid from Neshaminy, who arrived on campus after missing his senior year due to back surgery which has long since healed, it's not all that complicated.

"Now that I'm a senior, I've been through it all," said Arch, Big East co-player of the year last season along with Providence's Kris Dunn and a first-team all-Big East selection, "I'm confident in my game and my ability.

"Last year and the end of my sophomore year I played OK. I could've scored more, but he [Wright] wanted me to be the point guard and facilitate the offense. I'm just getting older now."

And, as Villanova opponents are quickly finding out to their dismay, better.

The 8-1 Wildcats are ranked No. 12 nationally by the AP. GETTY IMAGES

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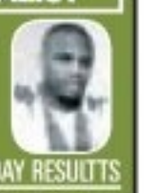

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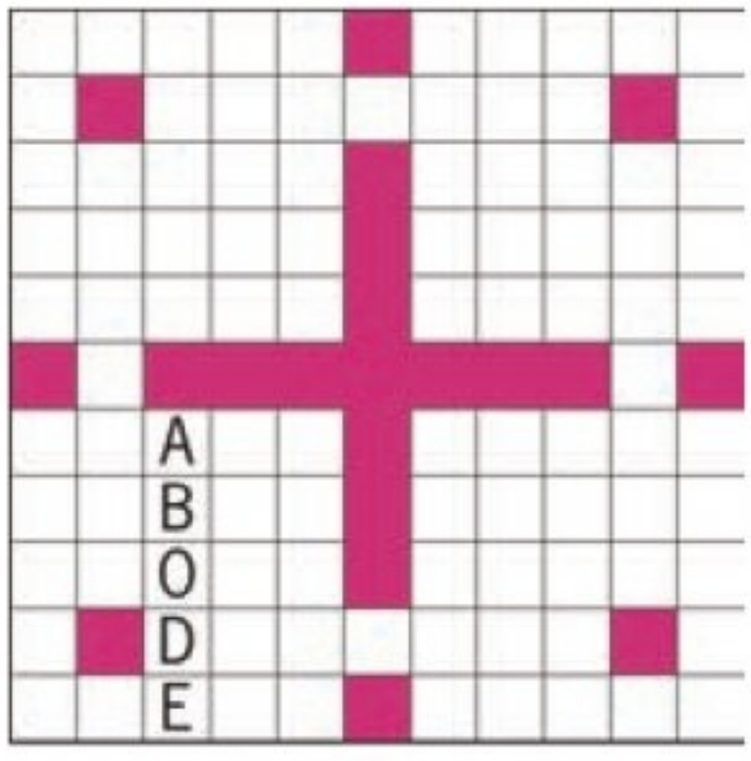
fill-ins

Place all the words listed into the grid. Each word can be used once only. The first word has been filled in.

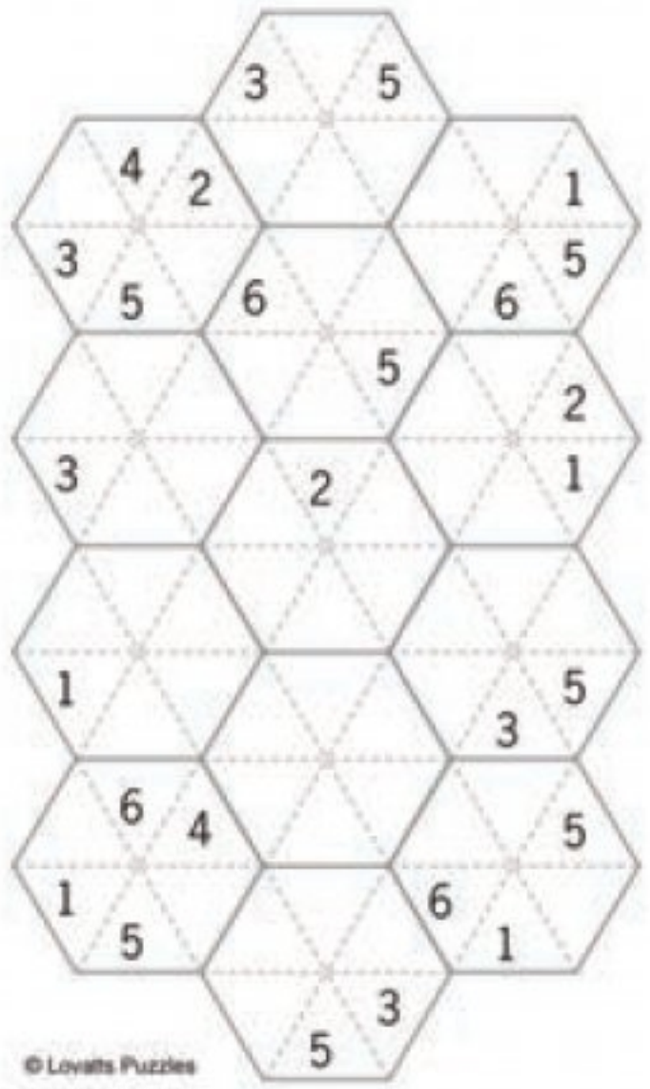


5 Letters
Abode
Adapt
Added
After
Aloof
Apron
Bases
Brags
Debar
Drone
Dwelt
Erode
Fence
Ferry
Glide
Honey
House
Ocean
Onion
Panel
Pygmy
Ruing
Runny
Saner
Strip
Super
Threw
Thump
Treat
Trier
Unite
Weepy

7 Letters
Dearest
Oarsmen
Plunder
Trailer

hexoku

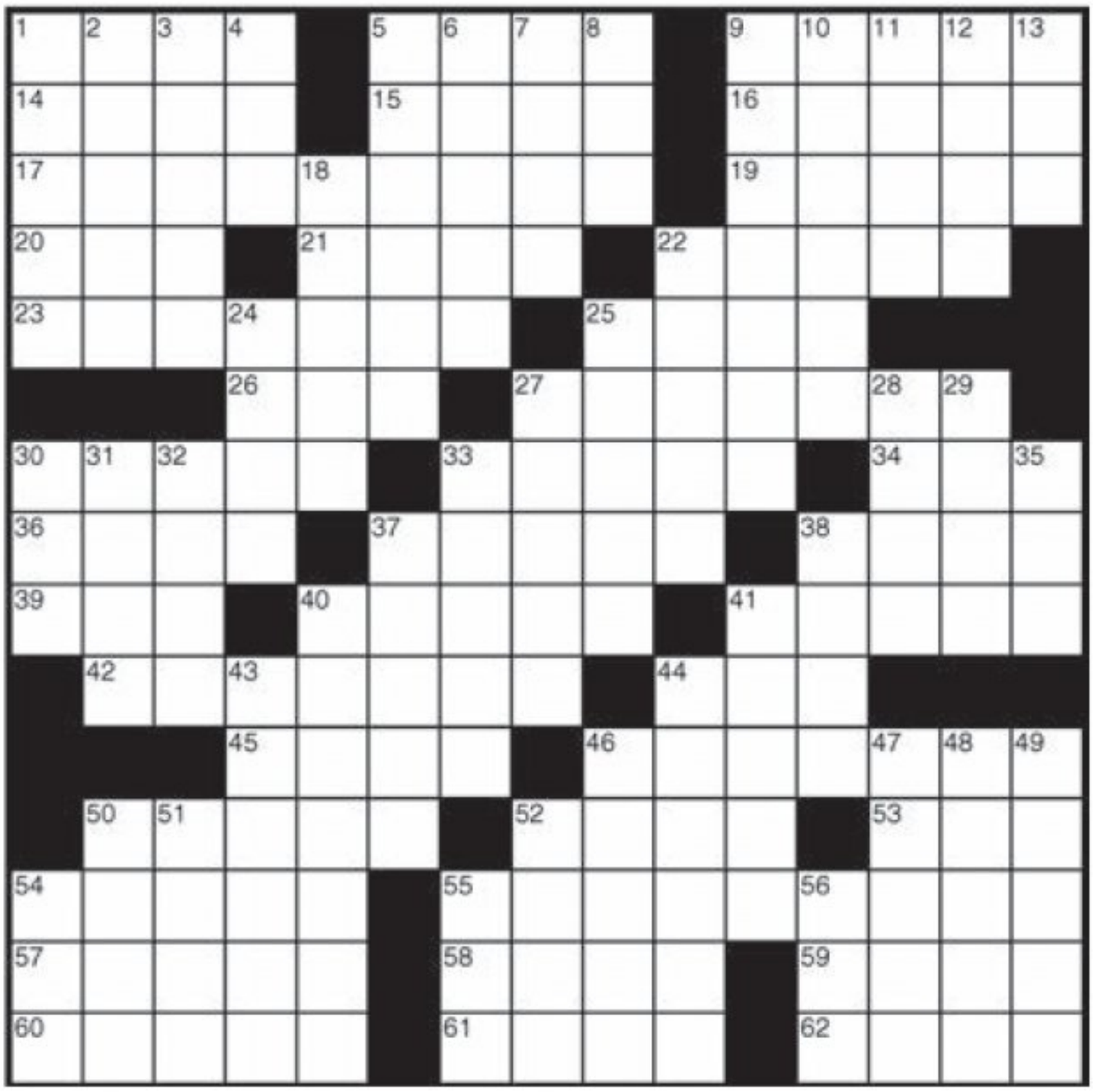
Fit the numbers 1 to 6 into each hexagon so that where the hexagons touch, the numbers are the same. No number is repeated in any hexagon.



metro.us/crossword

Across
1 Polite address
5 Catcher's glove
9 Cinema's "Duke"
14 Water, in Tijuana
15 Project starter
16 Honey factories
17 In the paddock
19 Districts
20 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
21 Appearance
22 Watch site
23 Zanier
25 Did a tapestry
26 Ames inst.
27 Pilot's flap
30 Treats an icy road
33 Navigation hazards
34 Yes, to Angus
36 Sleeping
37 Work at grammar
38 Big Dipper bear
39 Kind of scout
40 Authentic
41 Useful thing
42 Novice
44 "A pox upon thee!"
45 Hawk
46 "Gladiator" star — Crowe
50 Exhilarating
52 It may be free
53 Bridal notice word
54 Ernest or Julio
55 Was a sign of
57 Permit
58 Hydrox rival
59 One-horse town
60 First American in orbit
61 Urn homophone
62 Nave neighbor

Down
1 Parrot
2 Greek marketplace
3 Mr. Goldfinger
4 Put a dent in
5 Environment
6 Slacker
7 New driver, maybe
8 A little bit
9 Piers
10 More open
11 Cousteau's middle name
12 In good order
13 Lisper's problem
18 Not quite right
22 Orchid-loving sleuth
24 Notorious pirate
25 Actress Dianne –
27 Hawk's lair
28 Dory need
29 Big Board letters
30 Marsupial pocket
31 Just touch
32 Kan. neighbor
33 Came unglued
35 Snack
37 Piggy bank coin
38 Employs
40 Go to bed, say (2 wds.)
41 Usher's beat
43 "Venus" singer
44 Steamboat inventor
46 Harder to find
47 Result (2 wds.)
48 Ogles
49 Rocky projection
50 Oates partner
51 Fashion mag
52 Golfer's cry
54 Muffle
55 Poker winning
56 Shaq's org.



FOR THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES, metro.us/games

games

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Let your heart and passionate beliefs lead the way, but not at the expense of your health or financial well-being.

Taurus Reconnect with old friends. Make a point to reminisce and consider what you might have done differently. It's never too late to make a change.

Gemini You may think you have everything under control, but if you have taken on too much, you will fall short. Ask for help to bring about change.

Cancer Don't get worked up over nothing when you should be enjoying all the festivities. 'Tis the season to be jolly and to forgive and forget.

Leo Bold actions coupled with good ideas will help you present your game plan to those who can help make your dreams come true.

Virgo Pace your every move. Taking on too much will cause you to worry and doubt yourself. Own your ideas and present them with confidence.

Libra Changes can be made if you are driven by passion and desire. Make your move based on your skills, knowledge and confidence.

Scorpio Keep your emotional situation in perspective. Strive to be unique, and use your imagination to come up with a plan that will work for you.

Sagittarius Soul-searching will help you put your life in perspective. Getting back to basics will help you establish a new beginning.

Capricorn Re-evaluate your current situation and consider how to keep everything running smoothly. Balance and equality will be key.

Aquarius Don't make physical changes based on unreliable information. Consider the pros and cons before you commit.

Pisces Don't take on too much or overspend on items that aren't necessary. You can have fun without compromising your bank account. EUGENIA LAST

metro.us/sudoku

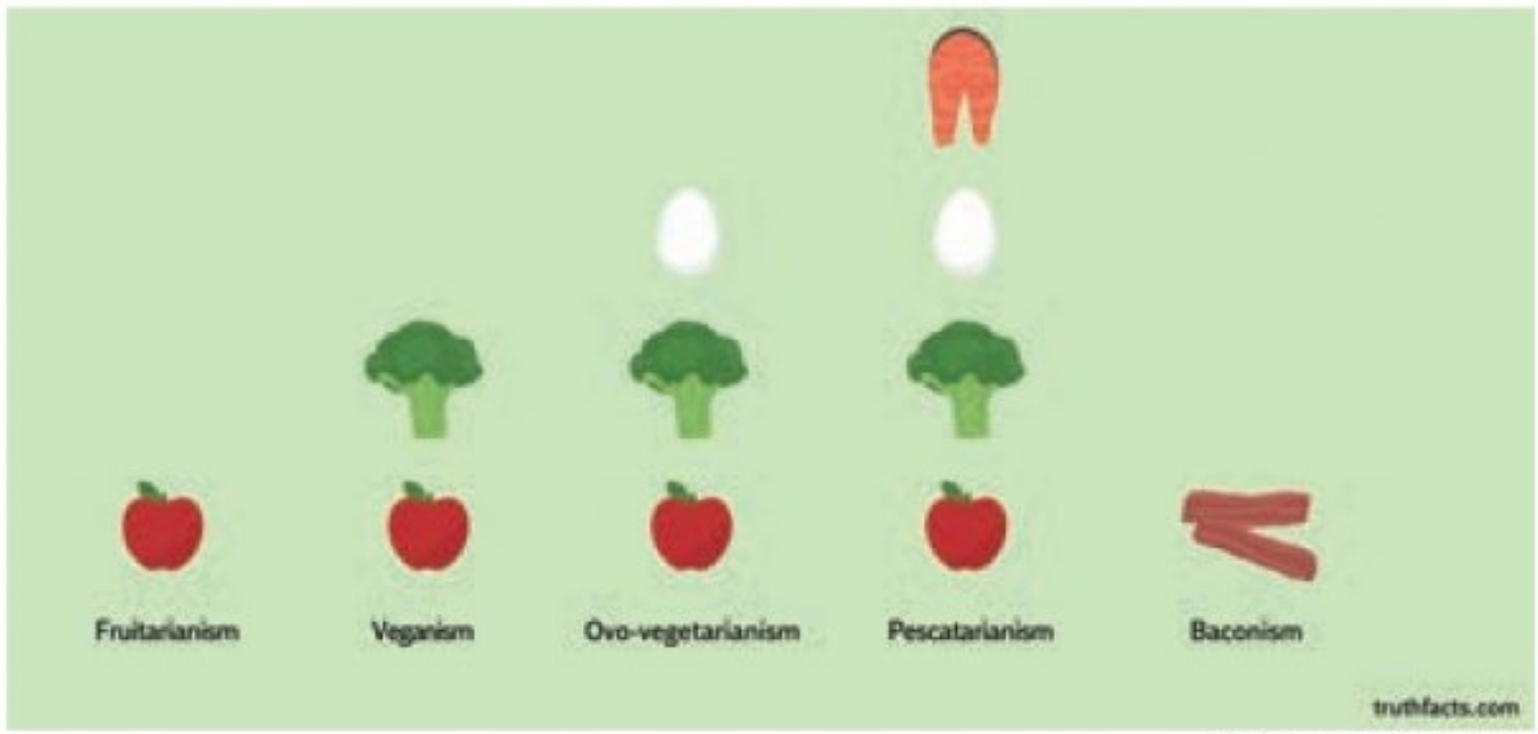
easy

8	4	7						3
1		6	7	5	9		8	
		5						
6	7			9				
			3	4	6			
				8			3	9
						2		
	6		2	7	4	3		8
3						9	7	1

hard

6		1	9			2		
		9					5	
7	2				4			8
				5		3	2	
		2	3		9	8		
	7	3		4				
4			2				9	1
	1					4		
		6			1	7		3

metro.us/truthfacts



BY WULFF & MORGENTHALER

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